

Peer Review of the MEP Report on the Pleasant Bay System

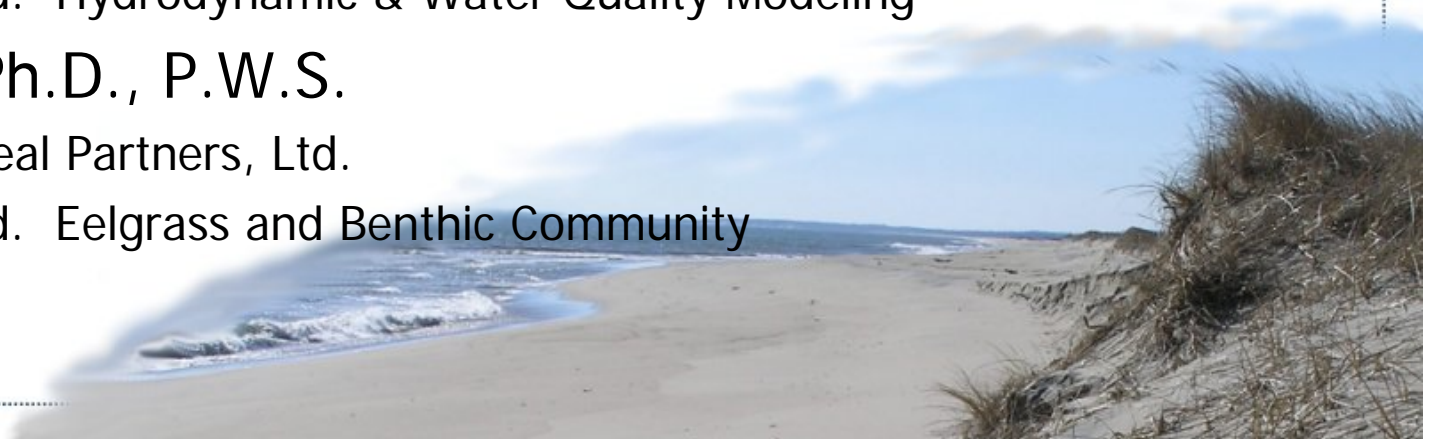


*Presentation to
Orleans WMV&DC*

May 7, 2009

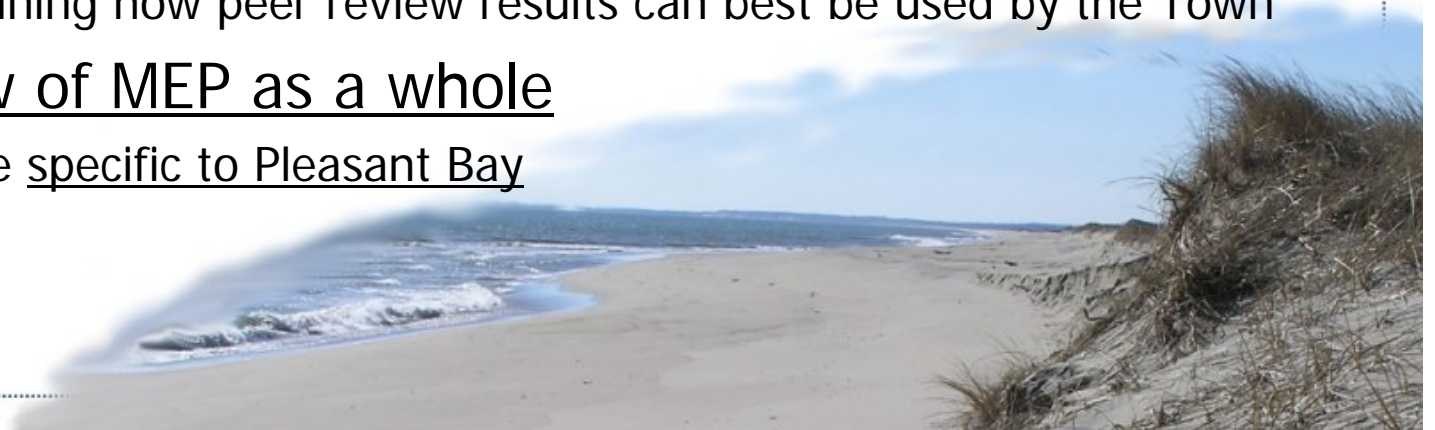
Presentation Overview/Speakers

- Bob Hamilton
 - V.P., Coastal Engineer, Woods Hole Group
 - Project Manager/Introduction
- Jeffrey Cornwell, Ph.D.
 - Principal, Chesapeake Biogeochemical Associates & Research Professor, University of Maryland
 - Task 1 Lead. Benthic Flux
- Kirk Bosma, M.C.E., P.E.
 - Team Leader & Senior Engineer/Modeler, Woods Hole Group
 - Task 2 Lead. Hydrodynamic & Water Quality Modeling
- John Teal, Ph.D., P.W.S.
 - Principal, Teal Partners, Ltd.
 - Task 3 Lead. Eelgrass and Benthic Community



Key Upfront Points

- Presenting results of a Draft Report
 - Conducted independently and objectively
 - Results may change
- Intended audience is the WMV&DC
 - Assumes working knowledge of complex, technical material
 - First opportunity engage with committee
- Peer review based upon available information
 - Models and data not available from SMAST
- Preliminary conclusions/recommendations
 - Still determining how peer review results can best be used by the Town
- Not a review of MEP as a whole
 - Findings are specific to Pleasant Bay



Peer Review Help Town Address

- Federal mandate
 - EPA TMDLs requires action
 - Peer review help improve/refine scientific basis
- So much at stake
 - Environmental resources and public investment
 - Peer review help improve confidence in scientific basis/optimize approach
- Complex technical issues/lack of transparency
 - Peer review help clarify matters
- Not a direct/immediate link from sewerage to restoration
 - Peer review help identify areas of uncertainty and potential for bias
 - Help add confidence in long-term benefits and approach
- Public opinion
 - Peer review focused on objective science
 - Peer review not intended to respond to public opinion



Overall Findings

- SMAST qualified personnel conducted work for Pleasant Bay in accordance with MEP protocols (in parallel with 89 systems statewide)
- Reports generally voluminous but not address detailed assumptions, implications, and uncertainties directly
- Peer review team has attempted to identify and prioritize key areas that may affect results (subject to available information)
- Pleasant Bay complexities warrant more rigorous treatment than standard MEP approach
- Depending upon Orleans tolerance for uncertainty, Town may wish to pursue supplemental work
- Specific findings/recommendations to follow...

